

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 13846 251739Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
HA-05 SMS-01 /074 W  
-----109968 251744Z /47

P R 251728Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9497  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USICA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 13846

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM UK UR  
SUBJECT: OWEN REMARKS ON MOSCOW OLYMPICS

L. IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW ON AUGUST 24 IN CONNECTION  
WITH HIS NEW BOOK "HUMAN RIGHTS," FOREIGN SECRETARY  
OWEN WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT BRITAIN'S DETERMINATION TO  
EXERCISE A STRONG HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE  
SOVIET UNION. THE INTERVIEWER RAISED THE MOSCOW  
GAMES. EXCERPTS FOLLOW: QUOTE  
QUESTION: WOULD THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TAKE A STAND  
ON THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN MOSCOW IN 1980?  
OWEN: THAT MAY COME AND I'VE TOLD THE SOVIET UNION  
THAT THIS IS NOT ESSENTIALLY AN ISSUE FOR GOVERNMENTS...  
IF THE BRITISH PEOPLE AND PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD GREW  
TO FEEL THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS JUST RIDING TOTALLY  
ROUGHSHOD OVER THE SORT OF ETHIC AND PRINCIPLES WHICH  
STILL UNDERLIE THE OLYMPICS THEN I BELIEVE THE OLYMPICS  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 13846 251739Z

WOULD COME INCREASINGLY UNDER QUESTION AND IT WOULDN'T  
MATTER WHAT A GOVERNMENT SAID. WE WOULD BE FORCED BY  
OUR ELECTORATE...  
QUESTION: SO JUST TO BE CLEAR THE RUSSIANS CANNOT  
TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT THERE WILL BE OLYMPIC GAMES  
IN MOSCOW IN 1980?  
OWEN: NO, BECAUSE THIS IS A CHOICE ULTIMATELY WHICH

DOESN'T LIE TOTALLY IN THE HANDS OF GOVERNMENTS. IF THE VARIOUS ATHLETES AND GROUPS OF ATHLETES THEMSELVES DECIDE THEY WERE GOING TO DO IT -- THE OLYMPIC GAMES COMMITTEE IS NOT RUN BY GOVERNMENTS APART FROM ANYTHING ELSE. NO THEY CERTAINLY SHOULDN'T TAKE IT FOR GRANTED.

UNQUOTE

2. THE "TIMES", THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH" AND SEVERAL OTHER NEWSPAPERS CARRIED THE STORY ON AUGUST 25. MOST LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT DR. OWEN HAD RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE GAMES HIMSELF.

3. A RELATED DEVELOPMENT ALSO OCCURRED YESTERDAY WITH THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AT A MEETING OF THE BRITISH SPORTS COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 3 A RESOLUTION WILL BE DEBATED THAT CALLS UPON HMG TO CANVAS NATO AND EEC GOVERNMENTS ABOUT A BOYCOTT OF THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS.

4. COMMENT: WE SPOKE WITH SCOTT OF FCO EASTERN EUROPE AND SOVIET DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE OWEN INTERVIEW. HE SAID THAT THE FCO HAD PREPARED GUIDANCE FOR USE IN COMMENTING ON THE SPORTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION. THE GUIDANCE STATED SIMPLY THAT THE OLYMPIC GAMES WERE A MATTER FOR PUBLIC OPINION, NOT GOVERNMENTS. OWEN'S REMARKS ARE OF COURSE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THIS LINE, BUT ARE NOTICEABLY SHARPER IN TONE, EVEN CONSIDERING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LONDON 13846 251739Z

THAT SEVERAL OF THE STRONGER PHASES WERE PUT IN HIS MOUTH BY THE INTERVIEWER. SCOTT ALLOWED THAT A QUERY FROM THE SOVIET EMBASSY AT SOME POINT -- OR PERHAPS A BLURB IN PRAVDA UNCOMPLIMENTARY TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY -- WOULD NOT BE UNEXPECTED. IN ANY CASE, IT APPEARS THAT OWEN'S REMARKS WERE IMPROMPTU AND NOT PART OF A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO PUT THE SOVIETS ON THE SPOT.

STREATOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TELEVISION, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, TEXT, BOOKS, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LONDON13846  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780348-1087  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780824/aaaaatpx.tel  
**Line Count:** 104  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** a231105c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1622490  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OWEN REMARKS ON MOSCOW OLYMPICS L. IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW ON AUGUST 24 IN CONNECTION WITH HIS NEW BOOK  
\"HUMAN RIGHTS,\" FOREIGN SECRETAR  
**TAGS:** SHUM, UK, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a231105c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014